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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know why preliminary arrangements have not been made already? When there is an Act limiting the term of Special Officers of the District Boards till the end of March 1954, why should not action have been taken in time for holding the elections?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" We were in the midst of Andhra partition. Now we are making arrangements to hold the elections before June next."

Constitution of the Panchayat Boards of Arkonam, Arcot and Ranipet into municipalities.

*42 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to constitute Arkonam, Arcot and Ranipet Panchayat Boards into municipalities, and if so, when?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" No, Sir. The latter part of the question does not arise."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know the population and income of these panchayat boards?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" When the proposal is not on hand, how can I be expected to have information about population and other things? When the proposal comes, we can find out the income, population and other things."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Was there not a definite proposal mooted to constitute Arkonam into a municipality?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" There was a proposal in 1949–50. But, because of protests made by the public and the Panchayat Board unanimously, the proposal was dropped in 1950."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Is there no set principle as to the minimum income and population for upgrading panchayat boards into municipalities?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" If the population is above 20,000 and if the income is nearly Rs. 1,00,000, we can form a municipality."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Audit of the accounts of the Hindu religious institutions.

1 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Registration be pleased to state—

(a) the arrangement made for the periodical audit of the accounts of the Hindu religious institutions in this State;

(b) whether any audit fee is levied for the above purpose and collected from the temple funds;

(c) for what period audit has been completed; and

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(*d*) the steps taken for prompt audit of the accounts of all the temples and mutts and to lay on the table of the House a list of temples, if any, for which audit has not been carried out up to date?

A.—(*a*) Accounts of religious institutions with an annual income of not less than Rs. 1,000 are being audited by the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts. Institutions with an annual income of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 60,000 are subject to annual audit while institutions with an annual income exceeding Rs. 60,000 are subject to concurrent audit, that is, audit to take place as and when an expenditure is incurred. The accounts of institutions with an annual income of less than Rs. 1,000 are subject to audit by the staff of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Administration) Department.

(*b*) Under section 76 (2) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951, every religious institution with an annual income of not less than Rs. 1,000 shall pay to the Government annually a sum not exceeding 1½ per cent of its income, for meeting the cost of auditing its accounts. Audit fees at the rate of 1½ per cent of their annual income are being collected from religious institutions.

(*c*) The accounts of a majority of the religious institutions with a higher income level have been already audited up to the end of fasli 1360. It will not, however, be possible to say precisely for what period, the audit has been completed in respect of all religious institutions.

(*d*) With a view to ensure prompt audit of the accounts of religious institutions the auditing of accounts has been now entrusted to the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts, a regular head of the department and he has been sanctioned the necessary staff, both non-gazetted and gazetted, for auditing the accounts of religious institutions.

A list[a] of temples for which audit has not been carried out up to date, that is, audit has not been done at any time so far, is annexed.

Application of Fundamental Rules to employees of municipal councils.

2 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether all the municipal councils adopt the Fundamental Rules for all the municipal employees; and if not, why not?

A.—All municipal councils except Dindigul have adopted the Fundamental Rules. The Dindigul Municipal Council has adopted the Civil Service Regulations.

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[a] Vide Appendix on pages 250–283 infra.

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Payment of cycle allowance to municipal bill-collectors.

3 Q.—Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether municipal bill-collectors are paid cycle allowance as in the case of other outdoor subordinates in the municipalities; and if not why not?

A.—The municipal bill-collectors are not paid cycle allowance. Judging from the nature of the work of bill-collectors who have to go from door to door for collection and the limited area assigned to each bill collector, the maintenance of a cycle by them and an allowance therefor are unnecessary.

Government transport buses in the City.

4 Q.—Sri V. GURUNANDAN ROW : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries, Labour and Co-operation be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing—

(i) the daily average number of Government Transport buses on the road in the City of Madras from March to October 1953 (both months inclusive);

(ii) the average daily collections from sale of bus tickets for the above period; and

(iii) the daily average number of tickets sold for the above period?

A.—(i) to (iii) The information required is furnished below :—

Month.	*Daily average number of buses on road.*			*Daily average collection from sale of tickets.*	*Daily average number of tickets sold.*
	Buses.	*Lorry buses.*	*Total.*		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1953				RS.	
March ..	269	..	269	30,708	238,517
April ..	276	13	289	34,772	286,044
May ..	281	13	294	36,632	307,629
June ..	271	13	284	37,274	313,968
July ..	273	13	286	36,949	313,951
August ..	273	14	287	35,804	301,509
September ..	271	14	285	35,112	297,559
October ..	267	12	279	32,950	280,461

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

* Dr. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know from the Hon. Leader of the House what the programme for this House is and how long it will be sitting? I see that certain non-official resolutions and Bills have been ballotted for. I should like to know whether a non-official day will be allotted for the consideration of these resolutions and Bills."

* The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" We were thinking whether it would be more convenient for the Members to